

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 IGA-02

OMB-01 DRC-01 /188 W

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R 151625Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3698

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 6407

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, XF

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN POSITION WITH REGARD TO ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN
SIXPOINT CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT

1. AT LUNCHEON TODAY, NOVEMBER 15, HOSTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER MASMOUDI IN HONOR OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT, I ASKED SALAH LADGHAM, DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS AT TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHETHER TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN FORMAL POSITION WITH REGARD TO ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN SIX-POINT CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. LADGHAM SAID THAT GOT HAS TAKEN NO FORMAL POSITION AND WILL PROBABLY NOT DO SO UNTIL AFTER ARAB SUMMIT LATER THIS MONTH. I ASKED HIM IF HE COULD PREDICT WHAT GOT POSITION WOULD BE AT ARAB SUMMIT. HE THOUGHT A MINUTE AND REPLIED: "IF AGREEMENT SHOWS EVIDENCE OF CONTRIBUTING TO DURABLE MIDDLE EAST PEACE, TUNSIAN GOVERNMENT WILL SUPPORT IT."

2. IN PUBLIC REMARKS MADE AT LUNCHEON, FOREIGN MINISTER MASMOUDI WELCOMED "US-USSR" EFFORTS TO RESOLVE ARAB-ISRAELI
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PROBLEM.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD FROM ANOTHER FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE , AS WELL AS FROM DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES, THAT THERE IS SOME DISSATISFACTION AND SKEPTICISM WITHIN THE TUNISIAN ESTABLISHMENT RE THE SIX-POINT AGREEMENT AND PARTICULARLY BELIEF THAT EGYPTIANS MAY HAVE GIVEN TOO MUCH TO ISRAELIS. GOT'S PUBLIC SILENCE ON THSI SUBJECT IS BEING INTERPRETED AS INDICATIVE OF THIS POSITION. OTHER OBSERVERS, HOWEVER, ASCRIBE GOT PUBLIC SILENCE TO TUNISIAN DESIRE NOT TO BE OUT OF LINE WITH ALGERIA AND LIBYA, WHO HAVE OPENLY EXPRESSED THEIR DISSATISFACTION, IN ANY EVENT, WE BELIEVE THAT THE LADGHAM-MASMOUDI COMMENTS ABOVE, TAKEN TOGETHER, REFLECT BOTH CURRENT TUNISIAN POLICY OF WATCHING AND WAITING AND AT SAME TIME SINCERELY FELT TUNISIAN HOPE FOR SUCCESS OF CURRENT MIDDLE EAST PEACE INITIANTIVE.
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PFOR, TS, XF, XI
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